

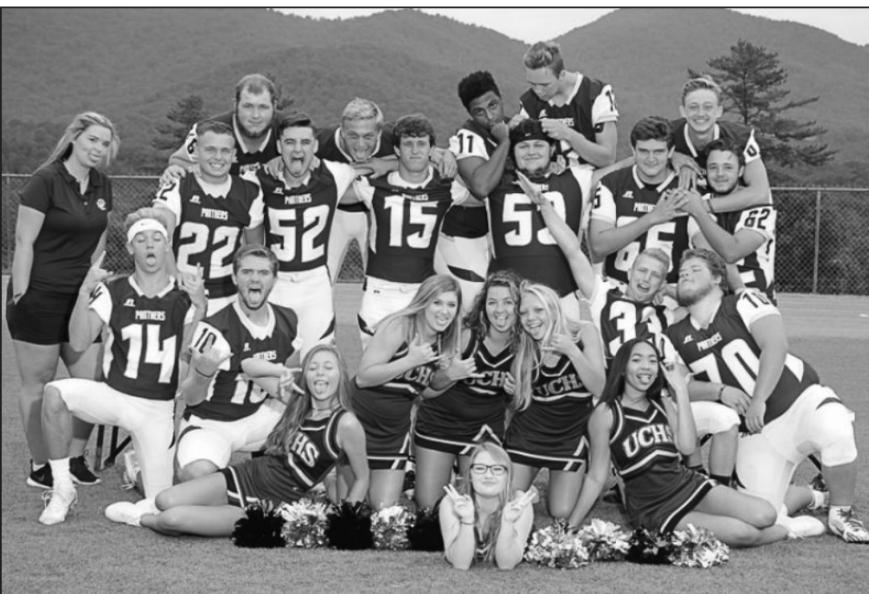
# Cross Country Region Championships Thursday; Football Senior Night Friday



The Union County girls cross country team.



The Union County boys cross country team.



Union County football and cheer squad seniors.

The finish line is in sight for Union County fall sports this week as the post-season begins for the cross country teams and football hosts Senior Night prior to Friday's game with Fannin County.

The loss at North Hall eliminated Union County from postseason contention but the Panthers still have plenty to play for. Rival Fannin County comes to town

on Friday, looking to repay Union County for spoiling the Rebels' senior night last season.

The Panther seniors can still tie last year's class as the winningest senior class in program history with two more wins. It would also clinch the sixth straight winning season and extend the school record for consecutive winning seasons.

Union County Cross

Country is also looking to keep its postseason streak alive.

For four straight years, both Union teams have qualified for state, and on Thursday, they will try to make it five straight at Helen's Unicoi State Park.

Racing gets underway at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. The JV races will be held afterwards.

# 8U Panthers victorious in round one of playoffs



The 8U Panthers on offense vs West Hall in round one of the playoffs. Photo/Blake Lynch

By Blake Lynch  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The 8U Panthers took on West Hall in round one of the Mountain Football League playoffs and came away with the victory.

No. 31 Kingston Jones scored first for the Panthers then added the 2-point conversion, making it 8-0 at the half. During the third quarter, West Hall scored but the point after was no good. Late in the game Jones scored again and No. 2 Brandon Lynch tacked

on the extra point to make it a 15-6 final.

The 8U Panthers advanced to round two to play the Fannin County Rebels.

In other playoff news, the 10U Panthers had a bye last week.

# NASCAR 2017

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Truex Gets Seventh Win

Kansas City, KS -- Martin Truex Jr. took control of Sunday's Cup Series race about midway and cruised to his seventh win of the season, by 2.24-seconds ahead of Kurt Busch.

Truex started on the pole but was sent to the rear of the field at the start of the 267-lap race for going below the white line before the green flag was given. He worked his way back up through the pack and it was evident that by lap 145, he had the dominant car.

"Oh man I can't say enough about this team," said Truex. "It's unbelievable. We never dreamed we'd win this many races at the beginning of the season. I had a great car today. We had good runs and kept ourselves in the right position to win."

The remaining top-10: 2. Kurt Busch, 3. Ryan Blaney, 4. Chase Elliott, 5. Denny Hamlin, 6. Chris Buescher, 7. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 8. Kevin Harvick, 9. Aric Almirola, 10. Kyle Busch.

The race was pivotal for several drivers, because the Chase field was reduced from 12 contenders to eight.

Several Chase drivers didn't finish the race and were eliminated.

Both of the Ganassi Racing drivers, Kyle Larson and Jamie McMurray weren't around at the finish.

Kyle Larson was the first driver out of the race. He pitted on lap 71 due to engine problems with his No. 42 Chevrolet. He lost three laps while his team made repairs. He returned to the track, but his engine went up in smoke during lap 77.

"We lost oil pressure," said Larson. "It's disappointing, because up until now we've had a good year. We were hoping to continue on. Even though we're out of the Chase, we'll continue to race as hard as we can."

Larson's teammate, Jamie McMurray couldn't miss a big wreck that happened in front of him on lap 198, and he was done for the rest of the race.

"The 77-car just got loose," said McMurray. "I over corrected and got into him. I thought we had one of the best cars on the long run, but that's the way it goes."

Both drivers were cut from the Chase field.

The lap 197 wreck, which involved McMurray, claimed nine other cars including Chase contenders Matt Kenseth and Kasey Kahne.

It all began to happen as the field came out of turn-2. Erik Jones got loose, lost it and swerved into the outside wall. Many of the cars behind him had no place to go and slammed into each other.

"I just lost it," said Jones. "I really feel bad for all those other guys. We had a fast car and had worked our way up to the front, but the back end just came around."

Jimmie Johnson had handling problems throughout the race. It looked like he was playing bumper cars several times. His first spin came on lap 187, causing him to brush the outside wall. He pitted for fresh tires and returned to the track. Ten laps later he spun again. He was involved in the big wreck during lap 198, but managed to keep his car going and finish the race.



Truex Gets Seventh Cup Win of Season

definitely have to get better in the next couple of races."

The Chase field has now been reduced to eight drivers: 1. Truex-4069, 2. Kyle Busch-4042, 3. Keselowski-4028, 4. Harvick-4017, 5. Johnson-4017, 6. Hamlin-4014, 7. Blaney-4009, 8. Elliott-4006.

The field will be reduced to only four drivers after the next three races at Martinsville, TX, and Phoenix. The highest finishing driver at Homestead, the last race of the season will be the 2017 champion.

### BELL GETS KANSAS XFINITY SERIES WIN

Christopher Bell won Saturday's Xfinity Series race. It was his first victory in five series starts. He chased down Eric Jones in the closing laps and passed him on the low side with four laps to go in the 200-lap race. As Bell drifted back up the track, Jones did not slow down and slammed into the rear of Bell's car. The impact sent Jones into the outside wall, while Bell continued on to victory lane.

"Well, it was racing, but he pulled up in front of me and I just couldn't stop," said Jones, who led 186 laps and finished 15th. "It wasn't like he was trying to race me, he just wrecked me."

Bell said he would apologize to Jones, but didn't consider his move an attempt to wreck Jones. "I didn't try to and I didn't want to wreck him," said Bell. "I thought I had cleared him. It's just one of those things."

Tyler Reddick finished second, followed by Ryan Blaney, William Byron, Justin Allgaier, Austin Dillon, Elliott Sadler, Matt Tifft, Ty Dillon, and Ryan Reed.

Top-8 Xfinity Series Championship contenders with three races remaining: 1. Allgaier-3066, 2. Byron-3064, 3. Sadler-3055, 4. B. Poole-3038, 5. Tifft-3033, 6. Reed-3032, 7. Hemric-3032, 8. Custer-3030.

There will be two more races before the Xfinity Series playoff field is narrowed to four drivers.

### CLINT BOWYER AND HOMETOWN FANS

Clint Bowyer, like all racers try to put on a good show for their hometown fans. He is from Emporia, Kansas, but considers the Kansas Speedway as his home track.

He was hoping for a good finish this past Sunday at Kansas in order to impress his friends and family.

"It's difficult to go home because of getting pulled in all the different directions - all the while trying to focus on getting a good run, because that's really what's important to you the most there," said Bowyer. "It's important to me to run well in front of all my fans, friends and family."

the impact his hometown of Emporia, KS has had on his racing career and you'll get a rare moment of silence from the 38-year-old Cup Series driver.

Then he'll look you in the eye and respond with a short and powerful answer.

"People are what make you," continued Bowyer. "As you grow up in a community, it's the people within that community who you learn from and everything else."

"Life's all about timing, it's all about chances that you get in life, and opportunities, and then you've got to be able to, I guess, have enough experience to prepare yourself for that opportunity and be able to capitalize on that opportunity."

"It seems like my career within a five- or six-year span went very fast, but we always kept moving. We never stayed in one class or anything, always kept moving up and forward progression, and that always enabled me to get in the next ride, the next opportunity, and capitalize on it really well."

Bowyer hasn't turned his back on Kansas, especially Emporia. He returns often to deer hunt, visit friends or just be part of the community. In March 2013, he bought the Clint Bowyer Autoplex car dealership on U.S. Highway 50, where he once worked as a lot attendant.

Unfortunately, Bowyer's hoped for win or good finish didn't happen.

His 19th-place finish didn't show his hometown fans what he is really capable of.

"A win at Kansas is obviously at the top of the list, right up there with a Daytona 500, of places I'd really like to get a victory," he said. "I just hope that we can get a Kansas win in the future for a lot of people including the Bowyer family."

**Weekend Racing:** The Truck and Cup teams are at the Martinsville, Virginia track. The Xfinity teams have an off week.

Sat., Oct. 28, Truck Series race 20 of 23; Starting time: 1:30 p.m. ET; TV: Fox Sports 1.

Sun., Oct. 29, Cup Series race 33 of 36; Starting time: 1 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** What year did NASCAR begin the Chase for the championship?

**Last Week's Question:** Which is the smallest track on the NASCAR Cup circuit? Answer: Martinsville Speedway. The Martinsville track is listed as 0.526-mile, while Bristol is .533. Not much difference in size, but Bristol has much higher banking, making it a faster track.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed and ordered online at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.

# UC basketball opens at home on Friday, Nov. 17

## 2017-2018 Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Varsity	JV
Friday	Nov. 17	Gilmer	Home	7:00/8:30	
Tuesday	Nov. 21	Towns	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	Nov. 28	Rabun	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Saturday	Dec. 2	Towns	Home	6:00/7:30	3:00/4:30
Tuesday	Dec. 5	Fannin	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Girls
Friday	Dec. 8	Rabun	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Friday	Dec. 15	N Hall	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Monday	Dec. 18	Andrews	Home	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Tuesday	Dec. 19	Gilmer	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Thursday	Dec. 21	Pickens	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Wednesday	Dec. 27	TBD	Towns	TBD	
Thursday	Dec. 28	TBD	Towns	TBD	
Friday	Dec. 29	TBD	Towns	TBD	
Tuesday	Jan. 2	E Hall	Home	6:00/7:30	4:15 Girls
Friday	Jan. 5	Lumpkin	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	Jan. 6	Andrews	Away	2:00/3:30	12:00 Boys
Tuesday	Jan. 9	Dawson	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Friday	Jan. 12	Fannin	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	Jan. 13	GAC	Home	6:00/7:30	3:00/4:30
Tuesday	Jan. 16	Pickens	Away	6:00/7:30	4:30 Girls
Thursday	Jan 18	White	Home	6:00 JV Boys	
Friday	Jan. 19	GAC	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	Jan. 23	N Hall	Home	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Friday	Jan. 26	E Hall	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	Jan. 30	Lumpkin	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Girls
Friday	Feb. 2	Dawson	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30